

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for transmitting streaming media through a network of
2 computers in a secured manner to a client device, the method comprising:
3 transferring streaming media, the streaming media comprising control
4 information and data information;
5 removing one or more bits from one or more packets from the streaming
6 media to form a masked version of the streaming media; and
7 transferring the masked version of the streaming media to a client device over
8 a network; and
9 converting the masked version of the streaming media to a display format;
10 displaying the masked version of the streaming media in the display format
11 where the masked version of streaming media producing an incomplete output of the
12 streaming media.

1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more bits comprise at least
2 one percent or more of the streaming media or at least 0.1% of the streaming media.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the network comprises a cable
2 television network or a network of computers.

1 4. The method of claim 1 further comprising recombining the one or
2 more bits with the masked version of the streaming media to reform the streaming media and
3 converting the reformed streaming media into a display format. .

1 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the streaming media is selected from
2 MPEG-2, MPEG-4, and digital audio.

1 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the streaming media is compressed
2 digital media.

1 7. The method of claim 1 wherein the one or more bits comprises content
2 information.

1 8. The method of claim 1 wherein the incomplete output of the streaming
2 media is substantially free from being understandable such that the incomplete output is
3 substantially free from any usefulness.

1 9. The method of claim 1 wherein the network of computers is the
2 Internet.

1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the client device is selected from a
2 television, a computer, a personal digital assistant, a network computer, and a workstation.

1 11. A method for providing security to compressed digital media, the
2 method comprising:
3 removing one or more bits from compressed digital media to form a masked
4 compressed digital media to make the compressed digital media substantially inoperable;
5 transferring the masked compressed digital media; and
6 transferring the one or more bits to combine with the masked compressed
7 digital media to make the masked compressed digital media operable.

1 12. The method of claim 11 wherein the one or more bits comprise at least
2 one percent or more of the compressed digital media.

1 13. The method of claim 11 wherein the transferring occurs through a
2 network selected from a cable television network or a network of computers.

1 14. The method of claim 11 the compressed digital media are selected
2 from MPEG-2, MPEG-4, and digital audio.

1 15. The method of claim 11 further comprising adding dummy one or
2 more bits into the masked compressed digital media.

1 16. The method of claim 15 further comprising removing the dummy one
2 or more bits from the masked compressed digital media before combining the one or more
3 bits back into the masked compressed digital media.

1 17. The method of claim 15 wherein the dummy one or more bits
2 comprises information that is substantially free from any usefulness.

1 18. The method of claim 15 wherein the dummy one or more bits
2 comprises information that provides a security alert.

1 19. A system for providing security to compressed digital media, the
2 system including a medium for computer codes, the codes include at least:
3 a first code directed to removing one or more bits from compressed digital
4 media to form a masked compressed digital media to make the compressed digital media
5 substantially inoperable;
6 a second code directed to transferring the masked compressed digital media;
7 and
8 a third code directed to transferring the one or more bits to combine with the
9 masked compressed digital media to make the masked compressed digital media operable.

1 20. The system of claim 19 wherein the computer codes are provided on a
2 single memory or a distributed memory.

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